

April 21.

AN EDITORIAL TRIBUTE.

To Fishermen Who Risk Their Lives
to Save Comrades.

In commenting editorially on the heroic efforts of two of the crew of sch. Athlete, to save one of their shipmates, the story of which was first published in the Times, the Boston Post says:

"Every now and then a splendid deed is done that makes the sun seem very bright and life well worth living in this throat-throttling era of competition.

"Every athletic profession has its opportunities for heroic daring, but possibly none greater than those that go down to the sea in little vessels. Here the Gloucester fisherman has an enviable record.

"The other day, a sailor on the fishing schooner Athlete was swept into the sea while trying to secure a sail in a howling gale. To breast the waves in a dory seemed the madness of suicide; but in a minute the crew were engaged in a desperate struggle to see who should man the rescuing dory. Two sturdy fishermen won out, and managed to launch the shell. The man they tried to save was found dead, killed by floating wreckage. With the greatest of difficulty the heroes regained their schooner.

"Such a defiance to danger and death makes the blood of all men run redder and beat quicker. There is no need of pessimism when we breed such men."

Will Go to Alaska.

N. D. Freeman of Freeman & Cobb, T wharf, Boston, left Saturday for the West, in the interest of the New England Halibut Company. Mr. Freeman has made several visits to Vancouver already, and understands the situation there thoroughly. He will also make a visit to Alaska, where the company is building a \$200,000 freezer. Since A. L. Hager became the resident western agent of the company, he has improved the quality of the halibut received at Boston considerably. The fish are now packed in ice on the day they are caught and generally shipped east on the same day, arriving here only six days out of water. When the freezer is completed the fishermen will bring their surplus catch there on the day of the catch, and it will be frozen according to eastern methods and held as a reserve for the time halibut is scarce.

Made Good Stock.

Sch. John Hays Hammond, Capt. Lemuel E. Spinney, which arrived at T wharf, Boston, on Monday, weighed off 47,000 pounds of fresh halibut, on which the fine stock of \$3209 was secured. The craft came here this morning to take out her fresh cod, which will amount to about \$400 or more, so Capt. Spinney and his crew are in for a big stock and share for their 24 days' trip.

April 21.

ONLY ONE OFF SHORE TRIP.

Six Vessels Bring Fish from Boston
to the Splitters.

Of the seven fishing arrivals at this port today, only one is from off shore, the others being from Boston with fish to split.

Sch. Waldo L. Stream, Capt. Frank Stream, arrived from Quero bank, with 15,000 pounds of fresh halibut, the fare selling to the American Halibut Co.

Schs. John M. Keen and Mary De Costa are from Boston with a few fresh cusk and hake and sch. Terra Nova has about 20,000 pounds of cusk. Sch. Conqueror is also down from the Hub with haddock. All these fish will go to the splitters.

Sch. Mary Edith, with 10,000 pounds of cusk and hake and sch. John Hays Hammond with 28,000 pounds of fresh fish are also on the way down here from Boston.

April 21.

Big Lobster.

A curiosity at T wharf, Boston, yesterday morning was a big lobster that weighed out 10 pounds, which was caught on a trawl hook by one of the crew of the sch. Mary B. Greer. The lobster was lively, and resented being handled, and its big, ugly-looking claws were raised in defence as soon as a hand was put to its back.

Portland Arrivals.

The following vessels were at Portland Monday with fish fares:

Sch. Kate L. Palmer, 6000 pounds.
Sch. Ella M. Doughty.
Sch. Albert D. Willard.

April 21.

MOST OF FISH
TAKEN OUT.

Million and a Half Pounds at
Boston Since Saturday.

There were over a million and a half pounds of fish at T wharf yesterday and plenty more this morning for the dealers. Beginning with the lot in yesterday morning and including those who came yesterday and up to bell time this morning, the arrivals numbered 89 sail.

The greater part of the fish brought in were taken out at T wharf and shore fish prices were well sustained throughout the day, as well as at the opening this morning.

Since yesterday morning's report, 32 vessels arrived, of which six are off-shore fares and the rest market boats. Sch. Regina, with 85,000 pounds, has the largest fare, sch. Frances P. Mesquita has 65,000 pounds, sch. Benjamin F. Phillips 73,000 pounds, sch. Buema 70,000 pounds and sch. Robert and Arthur 54,000 pounds.

Sch. Dictator of this port, one of the fresh halibut fleet, is also there this morning, Capt. Thompson hailing for 20,000 pounds of halibut and 5000 pounds of cod.

Some of the Provincetown fleet are in with good fares, sch. Joseph P. Johnson having 37,000 pounds and sch. Philip P. Manta 20,000 pounds.

Of the market boats, sch. Sadie M. Nunan has 29,000 pounds and sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan 27,000 pounds, but the rest have small fares.

Off-shore haddock are bringing \$1 and shore haddock \$2.70, and large cod are going at from \$2 to \$3.50 and market cod from \$1.10 to \$2.

April 21.

First Netter Sailed.

Sloop Priscilla sailed south mackerel netting from Edgartown Sunday. She is the first of the netting fleet to get away. The Columbia and Mildred will also sail from there in a few days.

April 21.

Today's Receipts.

Sch. Terra Nova, via Boston, 20,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Mary DeCosta, via Boston, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. John M. Keen, via Boston, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. John Hays Hammond, via Boston, 28,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Mary Edith, via Boston, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Waldo L. Stream, Quero Bank, 15,000 lbs. halibut.
Sch. Regina, via Boston, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, shore.
Sch. Edith Silveira, shore.
Sch. Little Fannie, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Lawrence Murdock, Georges.
Sch. Olympia, Rips.
Sch. Onato, south, shacking.

Today's Fish Market.

Salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.
Bank halibut, 8 1-2 cts. per lb. for white, and 6 cts. per lb. for grey.
Salt pollock, \$1.00; salt haddock, \$1.00; salt hake, \$1.00.
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large, \$1.65; mediums, \$1.40; Eastern cod, large, \$1.55; medium, \$1.30; cusk, \$1.50; for large, \$1.10 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 60c; hake, 60c.
Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Salt cusk, large, \$2.50; mediums, \$2.00; snappers, \$1.00.
Shore frozen herring for bait, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cwt.
Round pollock, 50 cts. per cwt.
Newfoundland frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cwt.

PORT OF GLOUCESTER.

Arrived Today.

Br. sch. Crescent, Maitland, N. S., for Hartford.
Sch. Forest Belle, Boston for Calais.
Sch. Mabel E. Goss, Stonington for Provincetown.
Sch. Maud Seaward, New York for Bristol.
Tug H. A. Mattus, Boston.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Georgie Campbell arrived at Canso, N. S., from the banks Thursday last with 80,000 pounds of salt cod, and sch. Smuggler cleared from there on the same date.

Sch. Hazel R. Hines passed Canso on Thursday last bound to Queensport, N. S., for bait.

Fishing sch. Quickstep, formerly of this port, Capt. Arthur Longmire, sailed Saturday for the halibut grounds, off Yarmouth, with a crew of 22 men from Digby, N. S.

Capt. Val O'Neil has completed the fitting out of his sch. Vanessa, for halibut fishing. He intended to leave for the fishing grounds Saturday, but at the request of his men, remained over for Patriots Day.

Sch. Pontiac, Capt. Enos Nickerson, is at this port from Boston, to paint and fix up and fit for seining.

Sch. Conqueror, Capt. Giffin, and sch. Terra Nova, Capt. John Hickey, will haul out of haddocking and fit for mackerel seining.

Capt. Frank Cooney, Jr., begins today to fit out sch. Almeida for market fishing.

Boston.

Sch. Beulah Maud, 2000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 cusk.
Sch. Alice.
Sch. Dictator, 5000 cod, 20,000 halibut.
Sch. Hattie F. Knowlton, 1500 haddock, 1500 cod.
Sch. Gracie, 800 cod.
Sch. Gov. Cleaves, 3000 haddock, 300 cod.
Sch. Two Sisters.
Sch. Seacomet, 10,000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. George E. Lane, Jr., 8000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 cusk.
Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, 25,000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. Teresa and Alice, 5000 haddock.
Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, 15,000 haddock, 50,000 cod.
Sch. Manomet, 2500 cod, 15,000 hake, 6000 cusk.
Sch. Tecumseh, 5000 haddock, 1500 cod.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, 3000 haddock.
Sch. Joseph E. Johnson, 12,000 haddock, 25,000 cod.
Sch. Freedom, 900 cod.
Sch. Edna.
Sch. N. A. Rowe, 1000 cod.
Sch. Olivia Sears, 2000 cod.
Sch. Eva Avina, 500 cod.
Sch. Diana, 1500 cod.
Sch. Benjamin F. Phillips, 45,000 haddock, 20,000 cod, 8000 cusk.
Sch. Sadie M. Nunan, 28,000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Buema, 30,000 haddock, 35,000 cod, 5000 cusk.
Sch. Robert and Arthur, 33,000 haddock, 17,000 cod, 4000 cusk.
Sch. Nettie, 1500 haddock.
Sch. Mary Emerson, 800 cod.
Sch. Philip P. Manta, 10,000 haddock, 8000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Little John.
Sch. Regina, 30,000 haddock, 25,000 cod, 10,000 hake, 20,000 cusk, 4000 halibut.
Sch. Laura Enos, 1500 cod.
Haddock, \$1. to \$2.75 per cwt.; large cod, \$2 to \$3.50; market cod, \$1.10 to \$2.

Harbor Notes.

The Boston pilot boat Liberty is on Burnham's railways.

Sch. Almeida is on the Rocky Neck railways.

Schs. Thomas Brundage and Susan and Mary are on Parkhurst's railways.

Bait.

Sawyer wires from Boothbay Harbor, Me., that he has 1200 bushels of good sized herring in his traps there.

Osborne sends word of plenty of alewives at Edgartown, selling at 75 cents per bushel.

Lobsters from Nova Scotia.

On the Yarmouth steamer, which arrived at Boston on Sunday, were 493 crates, 18 barrels and one box of live lobsters and three boxes of eastern salmon, which were delivered yesterday.

April 22.

Pensacola Red Snapper Stocks.

The following good stocks were made by some of the Pensacola, Fla., red snapper fishing vessels on their trips landed last week:

Sch. Frances H., \$772; sch. Kwasind, \$586; sch. F. Louise, \$415; sch. Favorite, \$987; sch. Priscilla, \$700; sch. Ruth Wells, \$660; sch. Sheffeyld, \$312; sch. Carrie B. Wells, \$531; sch. Clara R. Harwood, \$685.

A new schooner named Wallace A. McDonald is to be launched there this week and fitted for the Gulf fisheries.

Harbor Notes.

Schs. Dora A. Lawson, Robert C. Harris and Blanche F. Irving, are on the Rocky Neck railways.

April 22.

PACIFIC CODFISHERY.

Summer Fleet Now Starting on Season's Cruise.

The Pacific codfishing season has opened with a rush and the vessels, from San Francisco to Anacortes have either sailed or are getting ready.

C. P. Overton, of the Union Fish Company of San Francisco, says: "The Czarina sailed March 25 for sea fishing, via Pirate Cove and Paul-off, where she will complete her crew from the men now engaged at some of her company's shore stations. The schooner Ottillie Fjord, which formerly went for the Pacific States Trading Company, was this year outfitted by the Union Fish Company for sea fishing in Bering Sea. She sailed March 28, with a full crew and outfit, direct for the fishing grounds. The other two vessels which fished last year for the Pacific States Trading Company, will be devoted to other business. Winter fishing at the stations is reported almost a complete failure, but the stocks carried over from last year, and the outfitting of vessels for sea fishing during the coming summer assure a full supply of all this market can absorb up to March 1, 1910, barring such accidents as the loss of more than one vessel. This company will, later on, send out the barkentine Fremont and the schooner Stanley. The first of Lent showed a little spurt of business, but with the closing days of the Lenten season trade is very dull indeed."

Alfred Greenebaum, of the Alaska Codfish Company of San Francisco, says: "Our vessels, the barkentine City of Papeete and the schooners W. H. Dimond and John D. Spreckels, have all been outfitted for fishing for the season. The W. H. Dimond sailed March 15 and the John D. Spreckels March 22. The City of Papeete has been laid up in Baranoff Harbor through the winter, and supplies will be taken for her by the other vessels. There is nothing stirring in the codfish market. Business is very dull, the demand light, and prices about normal."

The Puget Sound fleet of codfish vessels have been busily preparing for their season's fishing in the North, and it is likely that by the time they have embarked for the long voyage to Bering Sea. King & Winge of Seattle, will send both the Vega and the Harold Blekum to the Bering Sea this year, the latter boat having left at the time the paper is going to

April 22.

OLD GLOUCESTER CRAFT

SEIZED.

Sch. Chas. Levi Woodbury

Charged With Fishing In-

side Limit.

Cruiser Fired Shot Through

Sails to Enforce Sur-

render.

The fisheries troubles on the Pacific coast, have come to a head. The Canadian government cruiser Kestrel arrived at Vancouver, B. C., yesterday, having in charge the American halibut fishing schooner Charles Levi Woodbury, formerly of this port, which she captured after firing four rounds from her machine guns and threatening to sink the alleged poaching vessel unless she surrendered.

The Woodbury was taken Sunday, and the captain of the cutter claims that he saw the schooner between East and West Haycock islands, about 10 miles off Cape Scott, the northernmost point of Vancouver island, within a mile of East Haycock island.

Three of the rounds were merely intended to call attention to the command to heave to, which had been issued to the schooner; but the last series of shot meant business. The gun was pointed at the fish boat, which was then at a distance of about 200 yards and still making for the open sea as rapidly as possible. The bullets, which were aimed high, ripped the mainsail of the schooner and one or two knocked splinters off the mainmast.

Capt. Sinclair refused to help navigate his vessel to port and would not even make fast a hawser, and his engineer declined to turn over the gasoline equipment. The warship then took the Woodbury in tow and headed for Vancouver, arriving yesterday morning.

April 22.

ONLY THREE BARRELS OF

MACKEREL.

All Sch. Patrician Was

Able to Secure in Set-

ting Around Three

Schools.

Fish Were Very Wild

and Dove the Twine

Each Time.

Had sch. Patrician been able to save either of the three mackerel schools she set at a few days ago, out south, it would have meant a whole spring's work for Capt. C. Wesley Farmer and every man on board the craft. The three barrels of fine fish that they picked out of the foot of the seine were landed at Delaware breakwater yesterday.

The fish were shipped to Fulton Market, New York, and arrived there this morning, bringing 75 cents each. There were also a few mackerel at the market from the traps on the Maryland shore.

Capt. Farmer writing from the Breakwater yesterday, said that the weather was bad and that 30 seiners were in there for harbor.

He said that when he struck the mackerel schools he was east from Five Fathom bank lightship and way off on the edge of the ground in 70 fathoms of water. He set at three schools of mackerel, but they were very wild and dove the twine each time. Each time he set, he says, he had a whole spring's work in the seine if he could only have saved the fish, but they dove and that's all there was to it, except the few they picked out of the foot.

He said that at the time he sighted the schools and set for them, he was alone, with not another seiner in sight, and from his report it would seem that the schools have been coming north an unusually long distance off shore. However, he reported the location of the fish to all the fleet in at the breakwater, and it is hoped that soon, with decent weather, the vessels may get run of them and make some hauls.

Capt. Farmer also says that outside of this it has been a pretty blue look out and the skippers do not like the way the fish have been acting, not showing to amount to anything in their usual haunts, but in their stead lots of bonitas and porgies being seen.

Mackerel at Boston.

More mackerel were received yesterday at Boston from New York, but at prices that, while they leave the fish comparatively cheap, still make them too high for the ordinary person's purse. There were 300 fish in the lot, each weighing from three and a half to four pounds. Nothing was heard from the seiners in the south, and some of the T wharf dealers are so certain that the vessels have lost the fish and that the large school of mackerel have come further north that they are making arrangements to handle mackerel in Newport within a few weeks.

From the Chincoteague Traps.

Three barrels of large mackerel from the Chincoteague traps were received at Fulton Market, this morning, by Wilson & Barry and brought 75 cents each.

April 22.

Salt Ship Arrived.

The salt ship Guiseppe D'Alì, a handsome craft, arrived here Sunday after a 67 days passage from Trapani, 56 from Gibraltar, with 2200 tons of salt consigned to Gorton-Pew Fisheries Co. The craft has been here before with salt cargoes. She had a rough passage and met with no mishaps.

April 22.

MOSS GATHERERS AROUSED.

Summer People Said to Threaten Ancient Scituate Industry.

The moss gatherers along the Scituate shores are aroused over a movement to prevent them from drying the moss on the beaches as they have done for years.

The summer people at the Sand Hills, where much of the moss is dried and made ready for the Boston market, are leading in this movement. They contend that the beaches, strewn with odorous moss, are neither picturesque nor healthful.

Moss gathering has almost made Scituate a national reputation, and many of the oldest families along the South Shore and especially of Scituate have been engaged in the business for years, and live by it.

The moss is used for various purposes, the principal output now going to the brewers.

The moss gatherers promise lively times if any attempt is made to put a stop to the ancient practice of drying on the beach. Many of the leading townspeople are behind the mossers.

April 22.

LITTLE DOING HERE.

Only Arrivals Today are Trips Coming from Boston.

There is little doing here in the fish line today. Schs. Regina and Thomas A. Cromwell are here from Boston, each with 50,000 pounds of fresh fish. Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes is also here from Boston with 9000 pounds of fresh fish and sch. Dictator, which took out her halibut at Boston, brought down 5000 pounds of salt cod.

April 22.

FIFTEEN ARRIVALS
AT BOSTON.Market Not Recovered From
Glut Early in the Week.

There are 15 of the fresh fishing fleet at T wharf, Boston, today, all but one being shore boats. The amount of fish in is small, but after the glut of the past three days the dealers are more than satisfied with the situation.

Prices are ruling low and trade is anything but brisk. Sch. Harvester, from off shore, has 45,000 pounds, sch. Aspinet leading the shore boats with 38,000 pounds and will bring most of her catch here for the splitters. The rest of the fleet have from 3500 to 26,000 pounds.

Off shore haddock are down to 75 cents, with shore fish at \$2. Large cod are bringing \$1.75 to \$2 and market cod \$1.10. Pollock are up, selling at \$3 with hake at from 75 cents to \$2.

April 22

Today's Receipts.

Sch. Thomas A. Cromwell, via Boston, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, via Boston, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Dictator, via Boston, 5000 lbs. salt cod.

Sch. Hortense, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Etta Mildred, Rips.

Sch. Edith Silveira, Boston.

Sch. Rose Standish, shore.

Sch. Actor, Boston.

Sch. Tacoma, halibuting.

Sch. Norman Fisher, Rips.

Sch. Winnifred, Rips.

Today's Fish Market.

Salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.

Bank halibut, 8 1-2 cts. per lb. for white, and 6 cts. per lb. for grey.

Salt pollock, \$1.00; salt haddock, \$1.00; salt hake, \$1.00.

Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large, \$1.65; mediums, \$1.40; Eastern cod, large, \$1.55; medium, \$1.30; cusk, \$1.50; for large, \$1.10 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 60c; hake, 60c.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

April 22.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50; mediums, \$2.00; snappers, \$1.00.
Shore frozen herring for bait, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cwt.
Round pollock, 50 cts. per cwt.
Newfoundland frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cwt.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Capt. William Goodwin will fit sch. Boyd and Leeds for Rips fishing.
Sch. Flora S. Nickerson is coming here from Boston to fit for single dory fishing.
Sch. Alice R. Lawson was at Port au Bosques, N. F., recently.
Sch. Flirt was at Shelburne, N. S., Monday.

Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Edith Silveira, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Aspinet, 15,000 cod, 5000 hake, 18,000 cusk.
Sch. Nokomis, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Mettacommet, 5000 cod.
Sch. F. D. Brown, 2500 cod.
Sch. Lillian, 12,000 cod.
Sch. Rita A. Viator, 1000 haddock, 6000 cod.
Sch. Klondike.
Sch. M. Madeline, 12,000 haddock, 5000 cod.
Sch. Mary J. Ward, 2500 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Elva L. Spurling, 12,000 cod.
Sch. Flavilla, 12,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Juniata, 6000 haddock, 5000 cod.
Sch. Harvester, 8000 haddock, 23,000 cod, 12,000 cusk, 2000 pollock.
Sch. Warren M. Goodspeed, 2500 haddock, 1500 cod, 15,000 hake, 7000 cusk.
Haddock, 75 cts. to \$2 per cwt.; large cod, \$1.75 to \$2; market cod, \$1.10; pollock, \$3; hake, 75 cts. to \$2.

Portland Arrivals and Fishing Notes.

About 65,000 pounds of fish were received on the Portland market Tuesday making the most plentiful supply to be landed within the past two weeks. All the vessels at the fishing grounds had good luck and the fish seemed to be present in abundance. Sch. Ella M. Doughty had a fare of 25,000 pounds while sch. Carrie C., of Gloucester from Georges had 3000 pounds of halibut besides 8000 pounds of salt fish. Sch. Mattie Winship of Gloucester had 1000 pounds of halibut and 12,000 pounds of salt fish.

The halibut was sold to the Lovett Co., but the cod remains on board and will be taken out in the schooner when she sails today on another trip to the Banks. The captain reports the spring weather on the Banks the worst known for 45 years, profitable fishing being out of the question, but notwithstanding the rough weather encountered no mishap of any kind occurred.

Sch. Fish Hawk of Boston was also there Tuesday, from a fishing cruise to Georges. She brought in a trip of 2500 pounds of halibut, which were taken out at the J. W. Trefethen Co.'s sheds. The schooner also had on board 18,000 pounds of salt cod, which will not be disturbed, as after refitting she will return to Georges to make another catch. Capt. Groves reports rough weather on the Banks and the vessel came in leaking, some of her oakum having worked out, and she will go on the railway for repairs before resuming her trip.

Sch. Dorothy, also there Tuesday, had 3000 pounds of fresh fish.

April 23.

Bait.

A special to the Times from the Magdalen Islands, the great source of fresh bait supply for the salt bankers and shakers, states that there have been no herring showing there as yet, and that no traps have yet been put down.

There are plenty of herring at Queensport, N. S., and of late four or five vessels have been baiting daily. It is expected that the herring will hang on until May 10 or 15. Alewives are plenty at Edgartown and selling at 70 cents per hundred.

Nothing like the run of alewives up the Taunton river during the past week has been known in a quarter of a century, notwithstanding reports of recent years that the species was gradually becoming extinct.

The catch for the present week, which closed by law yesterday, numbers something over 1,000,000, over 100,000 having been taken at Shallow Water alone.

The Consolidated Weir Co. of Provincetown wires that there are plenty frozen herring and squid at that port and 100 barrels of fresh herring at Monomoy.

Abundance of herring struck in North Sydney, C. B., harbor Tuesday and the boats averaged 2000. The first struck in two weeks earlier than last year. Herring are usually sold to the Bank fishermen for bait, but no vessels have arrived there and there is no market for the fish.

April 23.

MAY HASTEN UNDERSTANDING.

Seizure of Sch. Charles

L. Woodbury May Settle

Status of Hecate Straits.

Captain of Cutter Threat-

ened to Sink Fishing

Schooner.

A Washington dispatch says that the seizure of sch. Charles Levi Woodbury for alleged poaching will have a tendency to hasten a definite understanding between the American and British governments as to their attitude toward Hecate strait, which the Canadians desire shall be regarded as closed sea and the right of fishing therein denied to Americans.

"Repeated efforts have been made by the state department to obtain from Great Britain a definition of its attitude regarding this body of water, the correspondence on the subject dating back 10 years, but thus far without success. The United States takes the position that Hecate strait is an open sea, but should the contrary view finally prevail it would have a serious effect on the fishing interests of Puget sound. The strait lies between the Queen Charlotte island, and is 28 miles wide at its narrowest part.

"The necessity for an early understanding on the vexed question is realized by both countries."

Contrary to the general opinion, however, it has been found that the case is unrelated to the question of whether or not Hecate strait is an open or closed body of water, regarding which the state department is now endeavoring to get a definite statement of the attitude of Great Britain. In the present case apparently the controversy is to be over the three-mile limit, to which extent according to the general interpretation of international law, a nation has the right to say whether or not fishing may be carried on by citizens of another country.

Had the Woodbury been discovered fishing within the three-mile limit, the Canadian cruiser, it is said, would have the right to give chase and even take it on the high seas outside of the maritime limit. Capt. Sinclair's claim, however, that he was merely making a passage between the islands is an important issue in the case, he having this right, according to the usual interpretations of the law.

The chase and seizure of the Woodbury took place Sunday afternoon. Five bullets tore through the air in the direction of the Woodbury each time the machine gun was fired as the vessels headed at full speed from the west coast of Vancouver island pointed toward the middle of the Pacific.

Capt. Sinclair of the Woodbury feared that he would be sunk right there if he did not stop. At the same moment the second gun of the Kestrel was swung across her lock to get into range of the fishing boat. The Woodbury's engines were then stopped and her sails, gashed by the British bullets, hauled down. A few minutes later an officer and three men from the Kestrel boarded the schooner and took charge.

Capt. Newcombe of the cutter, declares that if he ever had a

Clear Case Against an American Vessel

this is the one. Early Sunday afternoon, he says, the Kestrel was steaming in from Quatsine sound on the west coast when he spied an American vessel fishing between East and West Haycock islands. These islands lie about 10 miles off Cape Scott, the northernmost point of Vancouver island. The islands are five miles apart, so that from Capt. Newcombe's figuring it is impossible that the American boat be more than two and one-half miles from either shore. As a matter of fact, Newcombe says that when he first observed her the vessel was within a mile of East island. By the time she had picked up her dories she was within a short distance of West island.

Capt. Sinclair apparently did not notice the arrival of the Kestrel on the scene until the government vessel was within about three miles.

Then the American ran along picking up his five dories, the fishermen cutting their gear without wasting time to pull a fathom of it in. Within 20 minutes after the Kestrel was sighted the last dory had been picked up, and the schooner, with her motor power working to its full capacity and

April 23.

127

her sails spread to a full western breeze, turned toward the highland of the Pacific. The cruiser

Gradually Overhauled the American Schooner,

and by the time they were four miles off-shore the Kestrel was alongside.

Capt. Newcombe yelled through a speaking trumpet, "Stop, or I will put a hole through you." "I don't think so," said Sinclair in a reply that came plainly over the water.

Then the big gun went off and there was a gash in the Woodbury's sail. When the second gun of the Kestrel had been unsprung and trained on the Woodbury, Capt. Sinclair realized that further flight was useless and surrendered.

Capt. Sinclair visited the United States consulate and lodged a complaint with Col. West, the American consul.

United States Consul West will take the sworn depositions of Capt. Sinclair and members of the crew, and investigate the case. If he thinks the seizure was not justified he will lodge a protest. Until the matters are straightened out, the crew of the schooner will remain on board. The schooner is owned by the Standard Fish Company of Seattle.

Capt. Sinclair, in discussing the seizure, said:

"The Canadian cruiser steamed alongside and ordered me to heave to. I asked why, and was told that my vessel was under seizure. He wanted

me to go into Bull harbor. I refused to do so, as I was in the Pacific ocean, on the high seas, and so the Kestrel passed a hawser to my schooner and towed me to Bull harbor, where we stayed that night.

"We were not fishing at the time. All my dories were aboard, and I was making a passage. Some of my men told me that we were fired on, but I am not prepared to say anything about that."

The matter of the seizure of the Woodbury has been turned over to the Canadian Department of Justice for trial. Condemnation proceedings will at once be instituted, the American schooner being held in the meantime. If condemned the Woodbury will be sold.

Location of Hecate Straits.

The Hecate straits are between the Queen Charlotte Islands and British Columbia. As these waters lie between two Canadian stretches of territory the Dominion claims that they are as much her exclusive property as Long Island sound is the property of the United States. The Hecate straits are valuable as halibut fisheries and are resorted to by both American fishermen from Seattle and Canadian fishermen from Vancouver.

It is estimated that there were 55,000,000 pounds of halibut taken in the Hecate straits last year and that of this amount 48,000,000 were taken by fishermen from the United States. The Canadian fishermen have made an appeal to the Canadian government to have these waters closed to the American fishermen. There is a delegation in Ottawa at the present time urging this on the government. The seizure of the Woodbury will bring the Washington and the Ottawa authorities to a serious discussion of this question of jurisdiction over valuable fishing waters.

Schooner Formerly Owned Here.

Sch. Charles Levi Woodbury, which was seized by the Canadian officials for alleged poaching, was engaged in the fisheries here for a number of years up to 1897, when she was bought by a party of prospectors for a trip to the Klondike gold fields. Under the command of Capt. Emerson Spinney she sailed from here for San Francisco, December 20, of that year. After rounding Cape Horn, the schooner stopped at San Francisco to discharge a cargo of soft coal which had been carried as a side venture. The prospectors and the crew left the schooner at that port and proceeded by steamer to Alaska. The schooner was finally sold to a fur merchant doing business on Post street, San Francisco, for \$5000.

Few of the crew has ever returned. Some have been reported as striking it rich in the gold fields and others, unable to make the venture a success, engaged in whale fishing in the Arctic.

The schooner was built in Essex for Capt. Richard I. Cunningham of this city in 1888. She was 105 tons gross, 90 feet long, 23.7 feet broad and 9.8 feet deep.

She was sold from San Francisco to Seattle parties and there engaged in fishing. Recently a powerful gasoline engine was installed in her and she has been engaged in fresh halibut. Capt. Emerson Spinney of this city, who commanded the craft on her trip to the Pacific coast, and also was part owner of her, is now engaged in towboating at Neme, Alaska, and is also interested in gold properties.